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From the Polaris to the CIA

Retired Vice Admiral William F. Raborn, Jr., who succeeds Mr. John McCone as head of our cloak and dagger agency, the CIA, is a can-do man, as an article on this page today makes pretty plain.

Yet being an outstanding executive officer of a carrier in combat, even being the man who put the Polaris missile into submarines to provide the free world with its most effective weapon, are no guarantees of like success in such a far-flung and secretive operation as the Central Intelligence Agency.

Probably if anyone can keep the CIA within bounds and guide its desti-

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nies so that it doesn't make the mis takes made at the Bay of Pigs, or doesn't get into squabbles with the State Department over who's trying to overthrow the government in Upper Volta or Lower Slobbovia, it's "Red" Raborn. He possesses a fine talent for organization and a commensurate talent for instilling loyalty in his fellow-workers.

In fairness to the CIA, it must be noted that its failures are known eventually by everyone, while its successes must remain for the most part secret. Whoever is chief of the CIA is in a tough spot, and so it takes a top man. Obviously it has one in Admiral Raborn.